



COVENTRY

VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

September 1997

From the President's Den

A friend of mine recently told me that he and his family were moving. At the time I thought that was very odd. I remember when he first came to the Cleveland area from Kentucky, he selected with care a community to build their home. He talked with everyone in the office and listened to the pros and cons of everyone's neighborhood. When he asked, I talked to him about Cleveland Heights, but because they wanted to build a new house, our city did not really fill their needs. I asked him why he was moving, "Building again?"

"No, we have no desire to build again. As a matter of fact we're moving to a smaller, older house in Westlake." He surprised me. "Seven Hills has outrageously high taxes and NO city services, not even a swimming pool for the girls. Westlake has lower taxes, pools, parks and recreation facilities. For the last two years, we've spent more time in Westlake than Seven Hills. It just makes sense."

I thought of this in July when my wife and I took our "Cleveland Heights Vacation." For once, we did not pack and leave when vacation time came. We stayed home.

Our week started at the Cain Park Arts Festival. We look forward to this annual event and this year was no different. Creative work, exciting ideas and a pleasant evenings walk in a beautiful park. It was a nice way to begin our time away from work.

Each morning commenced with coffee or breakfast on Coventry, a small amount of yard work (*not too much, we were on vacation*) and then a trip to the adult deck at Cumberland Pool. What a refreshing way to spend an afternoon and what a refreshing way to run a city pool. During my youth in Maple Heights, Dunham Pool was "owned" by kids. Adults rarely came and if they did, never felt welcome. Cleveland Heights has however devoted a third of the pool area for the exclusive use of adults. Certainly makes me feel better about paying my taxes. After lounging around, reading, snoozing, swimming and soaking up sun for four to five hours it was time to go home and dress for dinner.

Dinner in Cleveland Heights can be an international experience and because we enjoy a wide variety of different foods, we're perfectly located. The Sun Luck Garden on South Taylor Road prepares the most creative Chinese food in the county. Up the street the Tandoor Cafe makes remarkable Indian cuisine. Middle-Eastern food at Aladdin's, Italian at Cafe D'Oro and African vegetarian soul food at Soul Vegetarian Central on Lee Road kept us well fed without leaving the borders of our "burg."

Our evenings entertainment again proved that Cleveland Heights is a good place to call home. If a movie is at the Centrum or the Cedar-Lee Theaters chances are it is not being shown any where else in Northeastern Ohio. We of course took advantage of that and saw a few films never heard of in Akron. On Tuesday evening we attended an internet class at the Coventry branch of the CH-UH Library designed to help people plan their vacations (*we can't stay in Cleveland Heights for EVERY vacation*) with the help of the World Wide Web. My wife and I are not very comfortable with computers but after this class, we actually talked about whether we should have internet access in our home. Wednesday was spent attending a packed performance of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS at the Alma Theatre in Cain Park. It was a wonderful performance of a musical we both enjoy. Our vacation was capped with a fun evening of the Smothers Brothers music and humor at the Evans Amphitheater in Cain Park.

Despite the way it sounds, we did not conscientiously decide to stay within the boundaries of the city we reside. Because of the wealth of diversion in our municipality, it became a consequential by-product. We had a week away from work, we did not plan a vacation journey, we wanted to do some relaxing, fun and entertaining things. Our "to do" list was created to meet that goal.

Before moving from South Taylor Road to our Coventry home seven years ago, we considered other areas. Most prominently Orange Village. With the savings in real estate taxes, income tax and insurance we could afford a much more expensive house AND increase our equity. After weeks of looking, we discovered the houses did not have the same character, the neighborhood did not have

the same feel and the proximity to "everything" was not the same as Cleveland Heights. We decided to stay in the city. We selected our Washington Boulevard house, become involved in the community and tried to impact what we could.

Like my friend, we wanted certain things from our neighborhood. Each community offers a unique collection of assets waiting for selection. The problem usually comes in deciding which of those assets is most important. He realized his original decision was wrong, we confirmed ours was on target.

Probably, he would not be comfortable in Cleveland Heights, I know we would not feel at home in Westlake. Now. A community is an extension of the people who reside there and those residents mold its character. We like the character molded by our predecessors and hope those who come in the future respect our influences.

A week in our city confirms that we live in the city suited to our needs and the city confirms that we are content with the people we are. Not a bad combination. Not bad circumstances. Not a bad place to be and live.

Jeffrey R. Dross
President, Coventry Neighbors



CANDIDATES INVITED

Coventry Neighbors has invited all of the announced candidates for Cleveland Heights city council to join us at our next two monthly meetings. As of the time of publication it was too early to know if any candidate wished to formally address our organization, but we hope to see a few on Tuesday September 9, 1997. As regular attendees of the meetings know, Vice-Mayor Bonnie Caplan usually finds time in her busy schedule to join us. If you'd like to get more information on each candidates positions, consider stopping by for the next session, and bring a friend!

THANK YOU

A small but dedicated group of people work very hard every other month to produce the Coventry Village News. It is a no-pay, last minute, rush job done without thanks. If you can find the time why not remedy that and say thanks to Sandy Jaffe, Bob Klemenc and Bruce Biddle. Without their work, we would not have a newsletter. THANKS!

CALLING ALL ANIMALS

"Send your officer back to my house and this time make sure he brings his nose! I can't believe he couldn't find the mess my neighbor's dog made in my yard!" And so goes a day in one of the busiest departments at city hall.

Only a handful of communities in our area offer the breadth of services found in Cleveland Heights. One important service is animal control. Department Supervisor, Mary Ann Amato is aided by two control officers in the field and one part time staffer to set-up and retrieve wild animal traps. An outside agency supplements the city's in-house capacity after hours in the trapping of wild life. The Supervisor of animal Control and the city's wardens are prepared to answer calls and provide service to resident's concerns about all domestic and feral animals. They are also required by the state with responsibility to quarantine animals involved in the biting of a human. Issuing citations for biting pets, excessive barking, not cleaning up after your pet, cruelty to animals, animals at large and violation of ferocious dog ownership ordinances round out their responsibilities and keep them hopping through the day.

The majority of their calls concern wild animals, but domestic pets continue to be a large factor. Last year 218 cats and 283 dogs were captured in Cleveland Heights. The dogs are sent to the county kennel after five days and then offered for adoption. If the cats have a collar they are kept for five days, if no collar three. In the event they are not claimed within that time they are humanely put to sleep. Last year, one cat was claimed by a humane agency, ten expired of natural or previously inflicted causes and only eight were reclaimed by their original owner. If your animal is taken to the poky there is a \$7 per day impound fee, \$3 medication fee and a \$7 per day kennel fee. Because Cleveland Heights has an adoption service, they were

HARRY'S BOOK SELECTION

At the regularly scheduled July meeting of Coventry Neighbors we reviewed about twelve possible books as a remembrance of our friend Harry Cameron. Coventry Library branch manager, Pat Carterette helped us agree on two books which will be placed on the shelves there. The difficult decision was made to purchase EFFECTIVE SOCIAL ACTION BY COMMITTEE GROUPS (1990) by Alvin Zander and VISION IN ACTION: WORKING WITH SOUL AND SPIRIT IN SMALL ORGANIZATIONS (1996) by Christopher Schaefer. They should be on the Coventry branch shelves in a few months. Stop by and learn about community while remembering someone who was committed to making community work.

able to place 25 of the unclaimed cats in new homes last year. Cost of adoption is \$45 (including spay or neutering) and they also have a senior citizens program for adoption.

Another feature offered to every Cleveland Heights resident is a low cost spay and neutering service, in an effort to cut down on the growing necessity for domestic animal euthanasia. Male cats cost \$15, females \$30, male dogs cost \$30, females, \$40.

County requirements insist that dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. To make that requirement easier, you can purchase dog license at Cleveland Heights City Hall. From December 1st through January 20th the cost for a neutered pet is \$10.75, unneutered pets cost \$12.75. After January 20th the fee doubles.

While the animal control department serves the entire city, Coventry is singled out for two specific issues. First they want to be certain everyone knows that tying your dog to a tree at Coventry Yard while you run into Arabica for a cup of coffee is illegal. You could be fined and your dog could be impounded. Secondly, Coventry Neighborhood apartments have a horrible reputation for tenants abandoning their cats when they move out. Some are left in the empty suite, others are kicked outside. Either way, a sad end for a creature with whom you've shared your life. If you have a pet that you no longer want, don't abandon it. There are agencies in the Cleveland area who will take them such as the Animal Protective League on Wiley Ave.

The Animal Control Division has been called upon to help residents with ducks, snakes, iguanas, ferrets, snapping turtles and any number of popular wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, and rabbits but what they really want to do is help everyone enjoy their pets, keep them healthy and make them good neighbors. They suggest the following:

- 1) DO NOT leave your pets in the car on summer days. If an employee of the animal control division feels a pet is in danger, they have the authority to break the automobile window, confiscate the animal and fine the owner.
- 2) Keep your animal under control. A pet which disturbs the neighborhood in any way ; noise, unleashed or vicious will be dealt with by animal control.
- 3) Use a pooper-scooper. Enough said.
- 4) Maintain your pets shots and inoculations. It will keep them safe for many years to come.
- 5) License your dog.
- 6) Cats should wear a safety collar with your phone number. Your house mate will have a better chance at being returned if they have this help. If you have an outdoor cat, keep it on your property.

- 7) Call the animal control division if you discover a stray. It will help expedite a happy reunion.
- 8) Keep away from wild animals. They may carry diseases which could adversely effect your pet. This is especially important for children.
- 9) Cleveland Heights has a limit of two pets per dwelling. Either one dog and one cat or two cats or two dogs, but no more.
- 10) If you keep your dog tied up outside be sure to have food, water and shelter nearby.

They also offer these tips if your pet disappears:

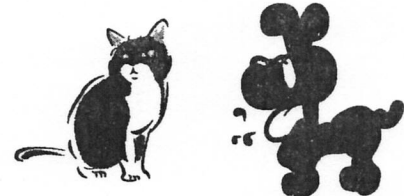
- 1) Call the Animal Control Division office and file a report.
- 2) Let your neighborhood newspaper carrier know that your pet is missing. They are out early in the day and see many wandering animals.
- 3) Tell your letter carrier, they know all the dogs in your neighborhood.
- 4) If you live close to another city, notify their animal warden. Your pet doesn't understand borders.

Because of the many ravines, wooded areas and old growth in Cleveland Heights, undesirable wildlife is going to be a continuous problem in our city. Because so many humans are irresponsible pet owners, someone has to keep them under control. For both of those reasons, it is nice to know that we can call upon the friendly staff at the Cleveland Heights Animal Control Division.

Jeffrey R. Dross

reported by Michele J. Ladouceur

Animal Control Services can be obtained by calling the Public Works Dispatch office at 691-7300 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.



JUST A REMINDER

Margery Ross, the recycling coordinator for Cleveland Heights would like you to know that newspapers will no longer be picked up for recycling if placed in plastic bags. Newspapers intended for recycling must be placed in paper bags or tied.

Coventry Village News is published by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The newsletter is distributed free throughout Coventry Village. Mailed subscriptions are available. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Boulevard. & Coventry Road.

When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood's future. Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

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Individual \$7.50 Family \$10 Senior Citizen \$5

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

CNI needs street representatives to communicate with the local neighborhoods and assist with the delivery of the newsletter.

YES! I would like to assist CNI by becoming a CNI representative for my street.

Please return this form with your check to:

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